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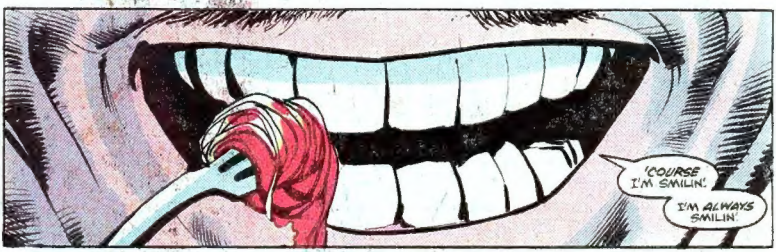
DAREDEVIL®

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

NO MORE MISTER NICE GUY



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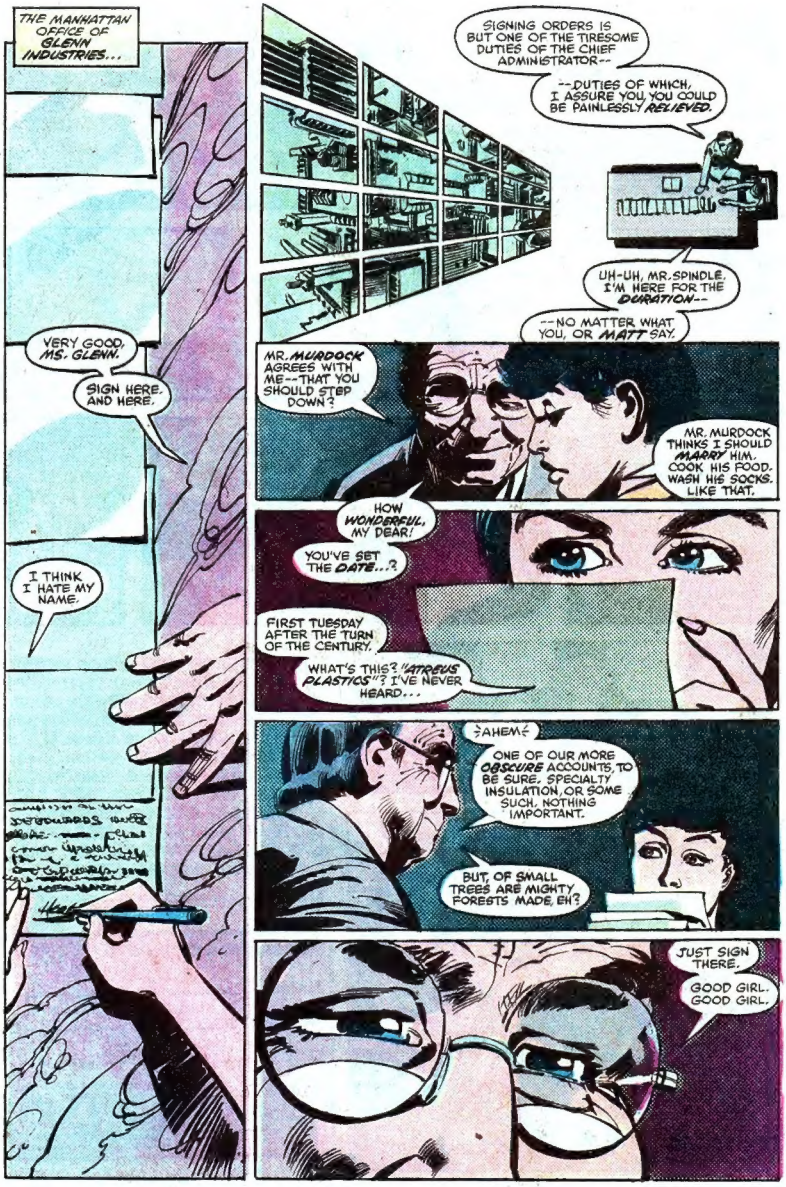
Stan Lee presents
GOOD GUYS WEAR RED!
MILLER STORY & ART
JANSON FINISHED ART & COLOR
O'NEIL EDITOR
ROSEN LETTERS
SHOOTER SUPERVISOR
THOKK
BLINDED BY A UNIQUE RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE, HIS REMAINING SENSES AMPLIFIED TO SUPERHUMAN LEVELS, MATT MURDOCK LEADS A DOUBLE LIFE. BY DAY, HE IS A TALENTED ATTORNEY. BY NIGHT, HE IS DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
BACK OFF, PUNISHER. HOGMAN IS UNDER MY PROTECTION.
KCHOW
SPAK SPAK SPAK
HOGMAN IS A RAPIST, AND A KILLER.
KILLING IS SOMETHING YOU KNOW ABOUT, ISN'T IT?
UH OH.
WHUMP!
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, DAREDEVIL.
BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
GONE. HE GOT AWAY.
AT LEAST I UPSET HIS TIMETABLE-- AND FOR THE MOMENT SAVED HOGMAN--
-- FOR WHAT THAT'S WORTH.
NOT MUCH.
OKAY. SO HOGMAN ISN'T THE CLASSIEST CLIENT I'VE EVER DEFENDED IN COURT, BUT HIS HEARTBEAT DIDN'T JUMP WHEN HE TOLD ME HE WAS INNOCENT--
--WHICH MEANS HE TOLD THE TRUTH.
I HOPE.


THE MANHATTAN OFFICE OF GLENN INDUSTRIES...
SIGNING ORDERS IS BUT ONE OF THE TIRESOME DUTIES OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR--
--DUTIES OF WHICH, I ASSURE YOU, YOU COULD BE PAINLESSLY RELIEVED.
UH-UH, MR. SPINDLE. I'M HERE FOR THE DURATION--
--NO MATTER WHAT YOU, OR MATT SAY.
VERY GOOD, MS. GLENN.
SIGN HERE. AND HERE.
MR. MURDOCK AGREES WITH ME--THAT YOU SHOULD STEP DOWN?
MR. MURDOCK THINKS I SHOULD MARRY HIM. COOK HIS FOOD. WASH HIS SOCKS. LIKE THAT.
I THINK I HATE MY NAME.
HOW WONDERFUL, MY DEAR! YOU'VE SET THE DATE...?
FIRST TUESDAY AFTER THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.
WHAT'S THIS? "ATREUS PLASTICS"? I'VE NEVER HEARD...
AHEM!
ONE OF OUR MORE OBSCURE ACCOUNTS, TO BE SURE. SPECIALTY INSULATION, OR SOME SUCH. NOTHING IMPORTANT.
BUT, OF SMALL TREES ARE MIGHTY FORESTS MADE, EH?
JUST SIGN THERE.
GOOD GIRL. GOOD GIRL.

CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING...
WEEKS AGO, YOUNG BILLY O'KORBY WAS CHARGED WITH SLAYING JOHN "FLAPPER" PHILLIPS-- AND ACQUITTED.
AT THE TIME, THE PROSECUTION WAS DESPERATE TO FIND A SCAPEGOAT FOR THIS HIGHLY-PUBLICIZED CRIME. THEY ARE STILL DESPERATE--
--AND, ONCE AGAIN, AN INNOCENT STANDS ACCUSED.
PETER "HOGMAN" GRUNTER HAS COMMITTED MANY QUESTIONABLE, EVEN CRIMINAL ACTS--
--BUT THE ONLY CONCERN OF THIS COURT AT THIS TIME IS THE CHARGE OF SECOND-DEGREE MURDER.
MY CLIENT IS NOT A KILLER.
WITHIN THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, I WILL RECEIVE EVIDENCE THAT THE TRUE KILLER IS A MAN WHO MASQUERADES AS A SOLID, RESPECTABLE CITIZEN--
--AND USES HIS POSITION TO ADMINISTER NARCOTICS TO YOUNG CHILDREN.
COACH DONAHUE-- WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING, BILLY. NOTHING AT ALL.

HOURS LATER, AT THE OFFICE OF NELSON AND MURDOCK, ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW...
SURE YOU CAN'T MAKE IT, MATT?
IT'S THE BEST LITTLE OPEN PIT BARBECUE IN TOWN.
KLIK
THAT'S OKAY, FOGGY.
PROBABLY TOO SPICY FOR ME, ANYWAY.
BESIDES, I'M WAITING ON A CALL. I RAN A BLUFF IN COURT TODAY--THE GRUNTER CASE. PRETENDED I HAD EVIDENCE, WHEN ALL I'VE GOT IS A TIP.
IF I'M LUCKY, I'VE PUT A SCARE IN THE REAL KILLER--AND HE'LL...
AH! FINALLY!
UH, MATT... THE PHONE ISN'T...
RINNNGGG
HE KNEW THE PHONE WAS GOING TO...
YEP.
MAYBE HE'S PSYCHIC.
MAYBE HE'S GOT GREAT EARS...
HELLO?
HEATHER.
UH, DARLING, I'M TRYING TO KEEP THIS LINE OPEN...

NO, NO, I DIDN'T MEAN...
HOW ARE YOU?
GREAT, MATT. JUST GREAT.
I'VE BEEN THINKING. A LOT.
ABOUT US.
SO HAVE I, HEATHER.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU I AM?
THAT'S WHY I THINK WE SHOULD...
BZZZT!
I KNOW, MATT. I KNOW. AND MAYBE WE SHOULD.
IT'S JUST THAT I'VE GOT SO MUCH TO FIGURE OUT.
CAN I COME OVER? I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY, BUT...
JUST A SECOND.
GOT A CALL COMING IN ON THE OTHER LINE.
KLIK
MATT?
HELLO?
HELLO, MR. DONAHUE.
YES, I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOUR CALL.
PUT ME ON HOLD, WILL YOU?

YES, I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING, MR. DONAHUE.
PUSHING ANGEL DUST IS HARDLY ACCEPTABLE PRACTICE FOR A GRADE SCHOOL ATHLETIC COACH.
IMAGINE HOW BILLY O'KOREN WOULD FEEL, IF HE KNEW. HE'S DEVOTED TO YOU, AND WITH HIS SISTER ONLY RECENTLY KILLED BY AN OVERDOSE.
IF YOU MURDERED PHILLIPS, YOU'LL FACE ...: NO, SIR, I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU DID.
BUT YOU CERTAINLY HAD A MOTIVE.
YOU WANT TO TALK? PRIVATELY?
YES. ALL RIGHT.
YES, I KNOW THE SCHOOL. THE GYMNASIUM?
ONE HOUR, THEN?
HELLO HEATHER? SORRY ABOUT THAT, BUT IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT...
HEATHER?
HEATHER?

ONE HOUR LATER...
COACH DONAHUE?
DON'T CARE TO ANSWER? OKAY. I'LL DO THE TALKING.
A BAG MAN BY THE NAME OF SMITTY TOLD ME YOU'RE HOGMAN'S CONNECTION -- HIS DEALER -- HERE AT THE SCHOOL.
SMITTY ALSO TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR CUT OF THE ACTION.
WERE YOU UNHAPPY ENOUGH TO SHOOT FLAPPER -- AND PIN THE RAP ON HIS PARTNER?
THAT WOULD LEAVE THE OPERATION OPEN FOR YOU...
SPEAK UP ANY TIME, DONAHUE. LIFE IS SHORT.
THAT SOUND!
SOME SORT OF ANIMAL...
GGRAAARRRRRR
NO.
NOT AN ANIMAL.

GGRRAAAAARRRRR
THE COACH.
WHUKKK
HIS HEART IS RACING--- HIS BREATHING, FURIOUS---
HE DOESN'T JUST SELL DRUGS--
--HE TAKES THEM!

PROBABLY HIGH ON ANGEL DUST-- HAVING A "WHACK ATTACK!" HE'S VIOLENT--
--NOT TO MENTION RECKLESS. HE'LL KILL HIMSELF--
--UNLESS I STOP HIM.
NGGGG
FULL NELSON SHOULD DO THE TRICK.
UFF!
MAKE THAT "VIOLENT, RECKLESS," AND STRONG!
STRONGER THAN ME.
MUCH.
SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE. I DON'T FIGURE THE COACH FOR A USER--
--AND EVEN IF HE IS, WHY DO THIS TO HIMSELF, JUST WHEN HE NEEDS HIS WITS?
GRAAAAA
ANSWER: HE WOULDN'T, WHICH MEANS SOMEONE ELSE DID IT TO HIM.
WHICH MAKES HIM A VICTIM.
I HAVE TO SAVE HIM-- SUBDUE HIM...

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
HE'S OUT
BETTER GET HIM AN AMBULANCE. HE'S PROBABLY GOT ENOUGH GARBAGE IN HIS SYSTEM TO STOP AN ELEPHANT.
I DON'T LIKE THIS. NOT AT ALL.
WHO JUICED UP THE COACH--
--AND WHY?

A TENEMENT...
I'M DYIN', HOGMAN!
THE STREET'S BEEN DRY--USED UP THE LAST OF MY STASH THREE DAYS AGO.
THREE DAYS, MAN...
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH HEROIN, MARKIE.
MAKES YOU NEED GUYS LIKE ME.
THE SMACK IS WHAT I NEED, HOGMAN.
I'M DYIN'
SHOULDN'T HAVE FINGERED ME, MARKIE. SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD THE COPS YOU SAW ME SHOOT FLAPPER. THAT'S WHY YOU HAVEN'T SCORED.
NOW, IF YOU WAS TO TELL THE JUDGE YOU WAS LYIN'--OR STONED, WHEN YOU SAID YOU SAW ME...
SOLID, MAN. I'LL SAY ANYTHING, I'M--
I KNOW, I KNOW, YOU'RE DYIN'.
I WON'T FORGET THIS, HOGMAN.
AHH...
OH, YEAH...
YEAH...
LOOKS HAPPY.
DEAD, TOO.
GEE, DID I FERGET TO 'CUT' THE SMACK LIKE USUAL--AND FEED HIM THE PURE STUFF?
POOR MARKIE.

AND SO...
...LACKING OUR CHIEF WITNESS -- AND HAVING FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY IN HIS DEATH--
--THE PROSECUTION MUST WITHDRAW ITS CHARGE OF SECOND DEGREE MURDER AGAINST PETER GRUNTER...
MATT, IF HOGMAN DIDN'T KILL FLAPPER -- WHO DID?
I DON'T KNOW, BILLY. BUT THE LAW WILL FIND HIM -- AND PUNISH HIM.
IT ALWAYS DOES.
I'M OFF THE HOOK NOW, RIGHT, MURDOCK?
YES, HOGMAN.
NO CHANCE OF ANOTHER TRIAL?
NONE
THEN I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU--
--THAT I'M GUILTY AS SIN.
HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA FOR YOU, PAL.
JUST MY WAY OF SAYIN' THANKS.

LATER...
HOGMAN!
DON'T TRY TO RUN--
OOF!
WHO'S RUNNIN'?
LOOK, DD-- I DUNNO WHAT YOU WANT...
I WANT TO BEAT YOU SENSELESS.
YOU'RE A PUSHER-- A MURDERER. YOU'VE TRICKED AN HONEST MAN INTO HELPING YOU--DRIVEN A WEAKER MAN TO NEAR SUICIDE--
--CONVINCED AN INNOCENT CHILD THAT THERE'S NO LAW, NO HOPE--
YOU'LL DO NOTHIN' TO ME, HORNHEAD.
I BEEN READIN' ABOUT YOU, YOU'RE A NICE GUY-- A REGULAR BLEEDIN' HEART.
YOU WOULDN'T PUNCH OUT A GUY JUST CUZ YOU FEEL LIKE, SPECIALLY A GUY WITH SUCH A DELICATE HEART CONDITION--
--THAT HE NEEDS A PACEMAKER!
A PACEMAKER! SO THAT'S IT!
THAT WOULD REGULATE HIS HEARTBEAT-- KEEP IT FROM JUMPING WHEN HE LIED TO ME.
I'VE BLOWN IT. HOGMAN'S FREE. IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
GOT TO FIND BILLY-- STOP HIM BEFORE HE DOES SOMETHING CRAZY...

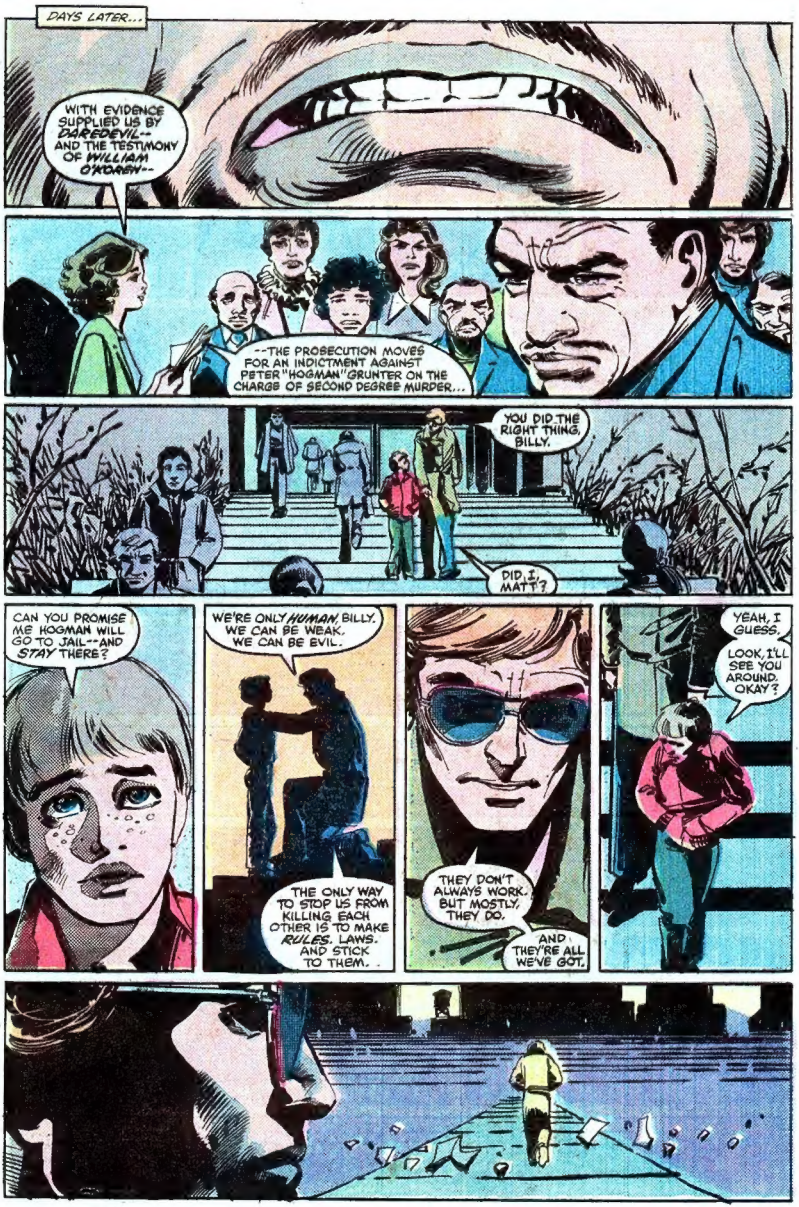
RING RING
HELLO?
YEAH, THIS IS HOGMAN. WHO'S ASKIN'?
WHAT? WHAT!?!
GAS IT UP, SMITTY. HEAD FOR THE SCHOOL.
LITTLE BILLY O'KOREN SAYS HE SAW US OFF MARKIE.
WHAT'S HE WANT?
MONEY.
WHAT HE'S GETTIN'-- IS DEAD.
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! IF YOU'D WATCHED HIM BETTER--
IF YOU ACTED MORE LIKE A FATHER AND LESS LIKE A BUM--
MR. O'KOREN --WHAT'S HAPPENED?
IT'S BILLY! HE'S RUN OFF WITH MY GUN!
I THINK HE'S GONNA KILL SOMEBODY!
HE'S AFTER HOGMAN.
HE'LL HEAD FOR HOGMAN'S APARTMENT-- OR MEET HIM SOMEWHERE.
THE SCHOOL...

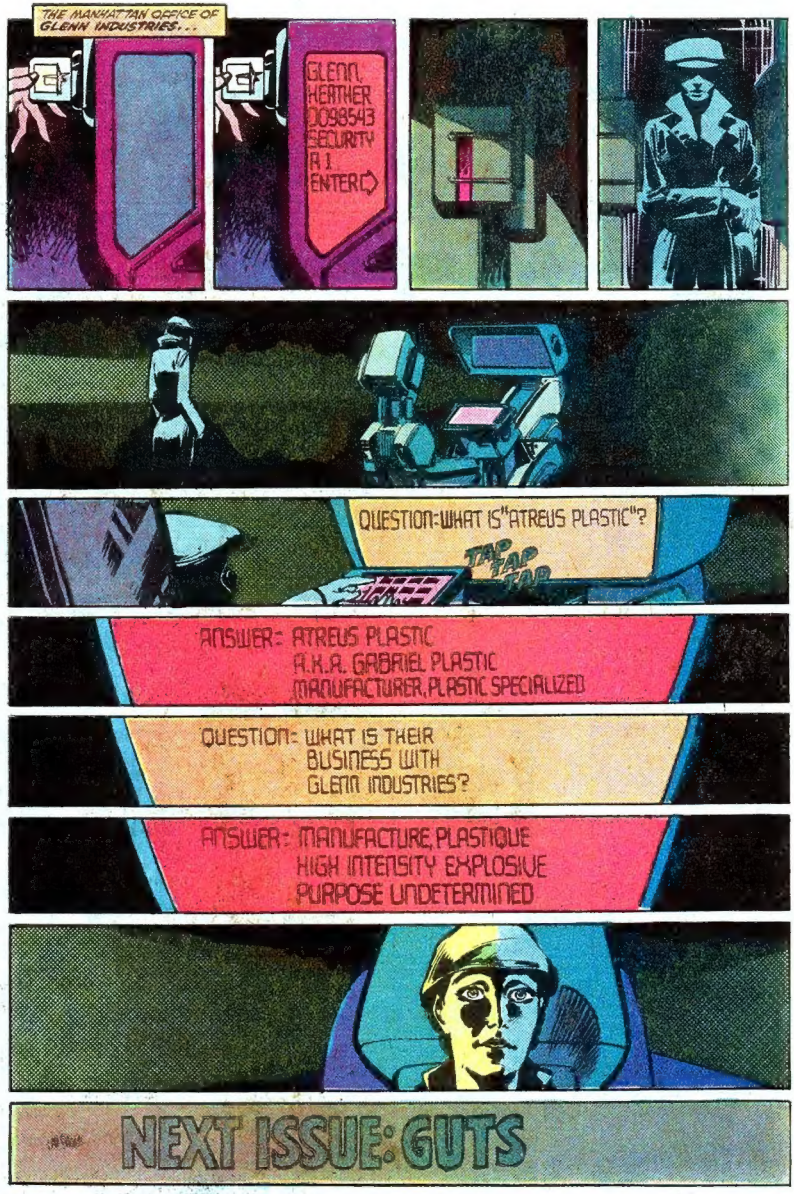
SOON...
MAYBE YOU GOT OFF IN COURT--
--BUT IT WAS YOUR DUST THAT KILLED MY SISTER.
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU PAY, HOGMAN!
DON'T TRY IT, KID.
I BROUGHT HELP.
SMITTY?
SMITTY-- BEHIND YOU--
KBLAM
THE PUNISHER-- HERE?!
GIMME THAT PIECE.
BUT...
TAKE A WALK, PUNISHER--
--OR I WASTE THE BRAT!
KBLAM BLAMM
AAAAAAAAGG

GO HOME, CHILD.
I'LL FINISH THIS.
NO!
KBLAM
BLAM
BLAMM
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
KBLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAMM
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
YOU DON'T SCARE ME, PUNISHER I'VE DONE MY HOMEWORK--
--AND I KNOW YOU'RE MISSING ME ON PURPOSE.

YOU'VE KILLED DOZENS OF CRIMINALS IN YOUR TIME. BUT YOU'VE NEVER HARMED AN INNOCENT.
YOU WON'T KILL ME.
I SHOT YOU ONCE BEFORE--
SURE. BUT THAT WAS A TRANQUILIZER.
YOU'RE USING REAL BULLETS NOW.
A TRUCE THEN
I'LL SETTLE WITH HOGWAN LATER.
NO TRUCE
YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL.
YOU WOULDN'T DARE--

KBBLAMMM
DON'T DO IT, BILLY!
DON'T THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY!
WE'LL GET HIM FOR KILLING MARKIE--
--AND POISONING COACH DONAHUE.
I PROMISE,
BILLY...


DAYS LATER...
WITH EVIDENCE SUPPLIED US BY DAREDEVIL--AND THE TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM O'KORSH--
--THE PROSECUTION MOVES FOR AN INDICTMENT AGAINST PETER "HOGMAN" GRUNTER ON THE CHARGE OF SECOND DEGREE MURDER...
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, BILLY.
DID I, MATT?
CAN YOU PROMISE ME HOGMAN WILL GO TO JAIL--AND STAY THERE?
WE'RE ONLY HUMAN, BILLY. WE CAN BE WEAK. WE CAN BE EVIL.
THE ONLY WAY TO STOP US FROM KILLING EACH OTHER IS TO MAKE RULES. LAWS. AND STICK TO THEM.
THEY DON'T ALWAYS WORK. BUT MOSTLY, THEY DO.
AND THEY'RE ALL WE'VE GOT.
YEAH, I GUESS.
LOOK, I'LL SEE YOU AROUND. OKAY?


THE MANHATTAN OFFICE OF GLENN INDUSTRIES...
GLENN, HEATHER 0098543 SECURITY A 1 ENTER
QUESTION: WHAT IS "ATREUS PLASTIC"?
TAP TAP TAP
ANSWER: ATREUS PLASTIC A.K.A. GABRIEL PLASTIC MANUFACTURER, PLASTIC SPECIALIZED
QUESTION: WHAT IS THEIR BUSINESS WITH GLENN INDUSTRIES?
ANSWER: MANUFACTURE, PLASTIQUE HIGH INTENSITY EXPLOSIVE PURPOSE UNDETERMINED
NEXT ISSUE: GUTS

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

At this writing, it's been four weeks since the release of DD #181. By now, the mail should have dwindled to two or three letters a day from Europe or Australia.

But it's still pouring in, as if the issue had just hit the stands . . .

Dear Frank,

You did it. You actually did it. You killed her. After leaving your readers screaming in suspense these last few months, you really had the raw grit and absolute artistry to kill Elektra. I still can't believe it—and I love you and hate you all at once!

And you set it up so exquisitely, so perfectly. Left emotionally crippled by Foggy's mention of her as "Matt's girl," Elektra becomes a convincingly easier target for Bullseye, a man consumed by overwhelmingly powerful motives of hate and revenge. She offers him a mean resistance, but perhaps the fight has truly drained out of her—out of her spirit. And then, those few pages detailing her death-crawl to Matt's door: clutching her gut, spilling blood past hordes of onlookers too curious and frightened to give the lady anything more than a pointing finger, she comes to her final rest in Matt's strong, still-loving arms. Perhaps she has found her peace at last.

And all those eyes, all through this gripping story, staring out at us, they tell us so much more than any words could possibly hope to. DAREDEVIL #181 is truly a masterpiece—and you, Frank Miller, are a genius. I'm still reeling in shock.

You did it. You actually did it. You killed Elektra. And I cried.

Diana Schutz
6616 Telegraph Ave. #103
Oakland, CA 94609

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I could rave on at great length, but anything I could say would really be superfluous. DAREDEVIL #181 speaks for itself. It is, unquestionably, one of the finest pieces of work in comics literature.

verde
RD #2 Box 23
Franklin, PA 16323

Dear Frank:

What complaints could possibly be made about a well-written and beautifully drawn story? At least one, when that complaint is the death of Elektra.

Months ago the rumors started: Elektra would die in issue #181. Great secrecy surrounded the issue. But everyone I spoke to had the same opinion: Elektra was too exciting, too original and too popular a character to be killed after only fourteen issues. Distressingly, we were all wrong.

Elektra was the single best character to come along in many years. She was a strong woman in a strong role. She added a sense of mystery and romance that had been lacking. Her past and present meshed well with the new direction of the series. She was, for me, the key to that new direction. Her love/hate relationship with Matt Murdock/Daredevil was being well developed, so well, in fact, that DAREDEVIL became the only comic I *anxiously* awaited each month. There was so much more that could have been done with her character that it is impossible to believe that she is dead.

This is only the second letter I have written in over 25 years of reading comics—it is the first time I have written to complain. The cover of issue #181 should have read: "One Dies. . . One Wins. . . Thousands of Fans Lose!"

Useless . . .really useless.

You blew it, Frank.

Ted Hertel
4754 North Hollywood Ave.
Whitefish Bay, WI 53211

Dear Mr. Miller,

I realize that Elektra was the enemy. The bad guy. You could have simply thrown her in prison for awhile . . .or rehabilitated her . . .or . . .You didn't need to kill her.

Kevin McLain
Tujunga, CA

Dear Frank and the Gang,

I'll miss her.

Steve Lawson
Red Hook, NY

Dear Frank and Klaus,

"DAREDEVIL and ELEKTRA"—what a comic that would have made. I believe you have made a serious mistake by killing her off. I can't help but feel a great loss. There never was, and never will be, another character like her. So beautiful, so intriguing, so different—yet so real.

Great issue, but was it worth the sacrifice of a character like Elektra?

Darrin Montgomery
no address given

Dear Frank,

Your disposal of Elektra in DD#181 was timely and well advised. She who lives by the sword shall die by the sword—or sai, as the case may be.

Elektra had served her purpose, to define Daredevil's character. She was neither the Elektra of his past nor of his future, but a twisted thing doomed by her own nature and marked for destruction by the code she had embraced. For those who would have her reform and unite with Daredevil, what could be more ludicrous than a ruthless assassin settling down to cook baklava for the rest of her life?

Her death was a stroke of artistic integrity fully consistent with your handling of your hero to date. She had neither the staying power of the Kingpin nor the implacable fury of Bullseye; her only purpose was in demonstrating that Daredevil, although not immune to sentiment, cannot compromise his love of justice to it. And the brutality of her death was as necessary as her death itself, as a fitting postscript to the life she had chosen.

Well done!

Robert P. Miller
Rt 1 Box 171
Stanardsville, VA 22973

Dear People,

Art is power, the more perfect the art the firmer the basis of its analogy in the stuff of human experience. DAREDEVIL #181 moved me to tears and involved me not in an experience of fantasy but toward an evocation of emotion useful in my own life.

I don't need to speak of the sensitivity and topicality of the magazine to issues concerning the liberation of the physically different nor the relevance of its examination of the effects of criminal justice. Other readers have commented eloquently before. I want to praise the total intensity that Frank Miller and his associates have brought to climax in DD #181. It is precisely this which causes a comic book to transcend to an artform of its own, not literature, not illustration, not a 'blend', but something as enduring and different as "Nightwatch" or "Brothers Karamazov," and as unique. It is such that it requires its own standards for discrimination.

From the superb stylism of the illustration, the taut pacing of the narrative, and the cogent selection of the criticism, let us call DD #181 a classic in the art of the comic book.

Jose Broto, VP
B&P Laboratories, Inc.
5635 Delridge Way SW
Seattle, WA 98106

Hey, guys,

I'M GETTING ANGRY!! You had no right to kill Elektra! What did she ever do to you? I think it was cruel and inhuman to do that to Matt, so guys, you'd better resurrect her or I'm going to throw out my National Hornhead Club membership certificate.

Seriously, though. Bring her back, please! I'm on my knees already and I'm begging you, make it all a horrible nightmare that Matt's having.

I really hope she's not dead!

Chris Boucher
145 Central Ave.
New Bedford, MA 02745

Devil's Advocate,

I don't know why you killed off Elektra, but it hurts. However, you did something else which also hurts.

After all Bullseye did and thought in DD #181, I wanted what I consider justice for him. Only death would suffice! This DD issue opened a gap in me by raising emotions, and it should have been

written to fill that gap by satisfying the needs of those emotions.

It doesn't matter to me what pain Bullseye is suffering. The taxpayer has to take care of him in his invalid condition, and you writers can allow him to cause further trouble. That's not good enough! He should be dead!

I consider fantasy to be a place where I can experience events closer to the way I want them to be, not the world's way. Now days, it seems those fantasies dealing with really bad guys are teasers, which raise emotions for the good side, but in the end don't relieve, but instead frustrate.

Fantasies should be for enjoyment, not for adding frustration to our minds!

Neil Glossop
(no address given)

Miller, O'Neil:

Bullseye must die for his crime; in this mag and very soon.

Chuck McKinney
Box 244
Spearville, KS 67876

Dear Sirs:

I have never written to a comic book before, though I have read many that have touched my heart in magical ways that can't be put into words. I thought my first letter to a comic would be to talk about such a moment, but it is not. I write to you out of hate.

I hate Bullseye. I hate him with an all-consuming passion I have never felt toward anyone, least of all a character that only exists in india ink. At one time I only disliked him, and before that even admired him. Really good villains are hard to find. Most of them just rave on and on like a juvenile deliquent with his first gun. Bullseye raves, too, but he is one up on all the others. He is good; as good as any non-superpowered character has ever been. Throughout his appearance in Frank Miller's DAREDEVIL he has been an incredible villain. I am deeply grateful to Mr. Miller not only for Bullseye's portrayal, but for the entire ensemble of the book: DD, Matt, Foggy, Elektra, the Kingpin, and many others. If the heavens bestow blessings of genius on people, Miller must have an armful.

Now comes DD #181, an issue whose contents are made all the more tragic by Teresa Conway's letter in the same magazine. It is a masterpiece that I will always cherish—almost as much as I will hate Bullseye.

I have never seen someone so cold and callous in a comic. The things he does and the reasons he does them are the most vile imaginable. He kills indiscriminately and with sick passion. Life and love mean nothing to him. To compare him to a wild beast does a great disservice to the animal kingdom. I know there are people even worse in the real world, and I am not one of those who become so engrossed in fantasy as to lose my footing in reality, but it does not change my opinion. I hate Bullseye. I hate him with all the might I can ever muster. Slow torture would be far too lenient for him.

I HATE BULLSEYE. I HATE HIM.

And God help me, I sound just like him.

Thomas Dent
19175 Santa Rosa
Detroit, MI 48221

Dear Mr. Miller:

Concerning DAREDEVIL #181, may I simply say that it is the finest comic book ever drawn. Thank you.

Ken Altshuler
Keene, NH

Dear Frank,

DAREDEVIL #181 was great just like I knew it would be.

Mark Marus
1716 Frayser Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38127

Dear Editor,

Frank Miller is a genius, but let's not forget, so was Hitler!

Bernie Cascone
14 Whitfield Ave.
Weston, Ontario, CANADA

Murderers:

Why is it that all of Marvel's popular female characters get killed? By killing Elektra, you have reopened the Pandora's Box that Phoenix's suicide first blasted apart two years ago. Fandom will crusade and combine their forces against you—their own fan favorite—for ridding them of one of the most innovative, fascinating, mysterious, bold, and daring persons ever to grace the four color page. They'll condemn you for offing the greatest comics female since Jean Grey herself. And they'll be right.

But if you ask me, it's the best and most natural ending for Elektra as well as the classic fourteen issue magnum opus that was spawned with her debut. Her varied appearances between DAREDEVIL and BIZARRE ADVENTURES told us just enough of Miss Natchios to make us intrigued, and left us begging for more. I will defend Elektra's timely demise to the death. And I'll be right.

All of the above corroborates the statement that you can't please all of the people all of the time, even with your impressive track record. So don't try. Simply go with your instincts, and I'm sure you'll remain at the top of everybody's 'must buy' list.

Thank you for the most chilling and thrilling comic of 1981.

More, please.

Stu Kru...
28 Kettle Creek Rd
Freehold, NJ 07728

Dear Editor,

Thank heavens I read #181 on the afternoon of December 31, because if I'd read it just twelve hours later, the following statement would seem much less impressive (though it'd probably have ended up, in another twelve month's time, being just as true): "Last Hand" was definitely the best Marvel story I'd read all year.

There are many forms of praise that I could heap on this issue, but since I'm sure that others will say it more eloquently than I can, I'll simply say: truly masterful.

I'll even go so far as to say that it was truly deserving of the higher cover price and longer length. In fact, it was one extra-length issue that seemed lean and economical, rather than padded out with a false sense of grandeur.

And, despite the fact that it now costs us people up here 35 cents to send a letter to the U.S., I'm perfectly happy to pay the cost of a stamp to send a letter that has not one word of criticism in it (a real landmark for me!).

T. M. Maple
Toronto, CANADA

Frank:

Chet Flippo, in ROLLING STONE, once described Willie Nelson's album RED HEADED STRANGER as "an album of such awesome depth and impact that I still find it hard to believe that it's only a record." Three days after reading DAREDEVIL #181, I am left with much the same reaction. I still find it hard to believe that it's only a comic book.

"Last Hand" was probably the most affecting and moving experience I have encountered in any form of mass media entertainment this year.

I am just wondering how you're going to top this. I am, however, anxious to find out.

Charles J. Cerveny
116 N Roslyn Rd
Westmont, IL 60559

Dear Frank, Klaus, Joe, and Denny,

Congratulations are definitely in order, gang, because DD#181 is, without a doubt, the best book Marvel has put out in too long a time! This is an example of the medium at its best! This is what should be thrust upon an unsuspecting public to show them that not all comics are juvenile! This is it, guys!

I'll bet a lot of people are going to condemn you for killing Elektra, as she was the freshest new heroine in a long time. Yet her death was inevitable. She and Bullseye had to clash. They were two master assassins going for the same job, and so they had to fight for it—to the death. Bullseye came through in the end because of his obsession and his skill. Elektra didn't have this, and died as a result.

Bullseye's narrative was quite effective. It gave new insight into his character. I even feel sympathetic toward the poor guy. Daredevil took the backstage this time, but when he appeared, it was with a vengeance. I was surprised to see an actual hero deliberately drop someone. It was necessary, and that made it all the more scary.

Jim Jeffreys
1227 Quilliams Rd
Cleveland Hts, OH 44121

Dear Frank and Klaus,

Daredevil's dropping of Bullseye can be justified on the grounds that the assassin would have fallen anyway if, as he intended, he had injured DD. The question, however, is not whether Daredevil could have had a "just" reason for letting go. The question is: DID HE?

I hope the answer is not soon revealed. That doubt can be created in the readers's mind concerning Daredevil's commitment to justice is tribute to the creative genius of Frank Miller.

Rick S. Jones
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